

# WEBSTER'S II

## New Riverside University Dictionary

**polychlorinated biphenyl** (pōl'i-klor'ē-nā'id, -klār') *n.* Any of a family of industrial compounds produced by chlorination of biphenyl, noted chiefly as an environmental pollutant that accumulates in animal tissue with resultant pathogenic and teratogenic effects.

**polychromatic** (pōl'ē-kro-mā'tik) *adj.* **polychromatic** (kro'mik) or **polychromatic** (kro'mā'tik) *adj.* 1. Having many colors or manifesting changes of color. 2. Designating radiation of more than one wavelength.

**polychromatophilic** (pōl'ē-kro-mā'ti-fil'ē-s) *adj.* **polychromatophilic** (kro'mā'ti-fil'ē-s) *adj.* Susceptibility to staining with more than one type of dye, as seen in diseased red blood cells. —**polychromatophilic** *adj.*

**polychrome** (pōl'ē-kro-m) *adj.* 1. POLYCHROMATIC. 2. Made or decorated in many colors. —*n.* An object, as a piece of pottery, having or decorated in many colors.

**polychromatic** (pōl'ē-kro-mik) or **polychromatic** (kro-mā'tik) *n.* var. of POLYCHROMATIC.

**polychromy** (pōl'ē-kro-mē) *n.* The art of employing many colors in decoration, esp. in sculpture and architecture.

**polychrome** (pōl'ē-kro-m) *n.* A clinic or hospital that treats many types of ailments and diseases.

**polyconic projection** (pōl'ē-kōn'ik) *n.* A conic map projection having distances between meridians along every parallel equal to those distances on a globe; the central geographic meridian is a straight line and the others are curved, while the parallels are arcs of circles.

**polycondensation** (pōl'ē-kōn'dē'n) *n.* **polycondensation** (pōl'ē-kōn'dē'n) *n.* A plant having several corollas. —**polycondensate** *adj.*

**polycondensate** (pōl'ē-kōn'dē'n) *adj.* Chem. Having two or more anionic rings in a molecule.

**polycondensate** (pōl'ē-kōn'dē'n) *n.* Pathol. A condition characterized by an abnormally large number of red cells in the blood.

**polydactyl** (pōl'ē-dākt'il) *adj.* **polydactylous** (pōl'ē-dākt'il-ōs) *adj.* Having more than the normal number of fingers or toes. —*n.* A polydactyl individual. —**polydactylism**, **polydactyly** *n.*

**polydemic** (pōl'ē-dē-mik) *adj.* [POLY- + (EM)DEMIC] Inhabiting or occurring in two or more regions.

**polydipsia** (pōl'ē-dip-si-ā) *n.* [NLat. : POLY- + Gk. dipsa, thirst.] Excessive or abnormal thirst. —**polydipsic** *adj.*

**polyelectrolyte** (pōl'ē-ēl'ēk'tro-lit) *n.* An electrolyte having a high molecular weight, as a polysaccharide or protein.

**polyembryony** (pōl'ē-ēmb'ri-ō-nē, -ēmb'ri-ō-nē) *n.* Development of more than one embryo from a single egg or ovule. —**polyembryonic** (pōl'ē-ēmb'ri-ō-nik) *adj.*

**polyene** (pōl'ē-ēn) *n.* An organic compound having many double bonds.

**polyester** (pōl'ē-ēst'er) *n.* A synthetic resin, produced mainly by reaction of dibasic acids with polyhydric alcohols and used in water-proof fibers, plastics, boat hulls, swimming pools, and adhesives.

**polyesterification** (pōl'ē-ēst'ri-fikā'shōn) *n.*

**polyether** (pōl'ē-ēth'er) *n.* A polymer having a carbon-oxygen bond in the repeating unit, esp. when derived from an epoxide or an aldehyde.

**polyethylene** (pōl'ē-ēth'i-lēn) *n.* Chem. A polymerized ethylene resin, used esp. in films and sheets for packaging or modified for kitchenware, tubing, and containers.

**polyethylene glycol** *n.* Any of a number of high molecular weight liquids that are colorless and soluble in water and in many organic solvents, used chiefly in detergents and as emulsifying agents and plasticizers.

**polygala** (pōl'i-gā-lā) *n.* [NLat. Polygala, genus name < Gk. polugala, milkwort; polus, much + gala, milk.] The milkwort.

**polygamist** (pōl'i-gā-mist) *n.* One who practices polygamy.

**polygamous** (pōl'i-gā-mōs) *adj.* 1. Of, pertaining to, engaged in, or marked by polygamy. 2. Bot. a. Having both unisexual and hermaphroditic flowers on the same plant. b. Having either unisexual or hermaphroditic flowers on different plants of the same species. —**polygamously** *adv.*

**polygamy** (pōl'i-gā-mē) *n.* [Fr. polygamie < LLat. polygamia < Gk. polygamia; polus, many + gamos, marriage.] The state or practice of having more than one spouse at a time.

**polygene** (pōl'ē-jēn) *n.* One of a set of cooperating genes, each producing a small quantitative effect.

**polygenesis** (pōl'ē-jēn'jē-sis) *n.* Derivation of a species or type from more than one ancestor. —**polygenetic** (pōl'ē-jēn'jē-tik), **polygenous** (pōl'ē-jēn'jē-ōs) *adj.*

**polyglot** (pōl'ē-glōt) *adj.* [Fr. polyglotte < Gk. polyglōtos; polus, many + glōtta, tongue.] Speaking, writing, or composed of several languages. —*n.* 1. One with a reading, writing, or speaking knowledge of several languages. 2. A book, esp. a Bible, containing several versions of the same text in different languages. 3. A mixture or confusion of languages. —**polyglotism**, **polyglotism** *n.*

**polygon** (pōl'ē-gōn) *n.* [Lat. polygonum < Gk. polygōnion < polygōnos, having many angles; polus, many + gōnos, angle.] A closed plane figure bounded by three or more line segments. —**polygonal** (pōl'ē-gō-nāl) *adj.* —**polygonally** *adv.*

**polygonum** (pōl'ē-gō-nūm) *n.* [NLat. Polygonum, genus name < Gk. polygōnos, having many angles; polus, many + gōnos, angle.] A plant of the widely distributed genus Polygonum, with knotted stem joints.

**polygraph** (pōl'ē-grāf) *n.* An instrument that simultaneously records variations in such physiological processes as heartbeat, blood pressure, and respiration, often used as a lie detector. —**polygraphic** *adj.*

**polygyny** (pōl'i-gi-nē) *n.* [POLY- + Gk. gyny, woman.] The state or practice of having more than one wife at a time < tribal groups that practiced polygyny. —**polygynous** *adj.*

**polyhedra** (pōl'ē-hē-dra) *n.* var. pl. of POLYHEDRON.

**polyhedral angle** (pōl'ē-hē-dral) *n.* The configuration of three or more planes having intersections that form a common vertex.

**polyhedron** (pōl'ē-hē-dron) *n.* pl. -hedra or -dra (dī-ā) A solid bounded by polygons. —**polyhedral** *adj.*

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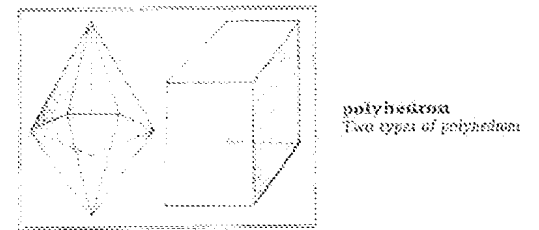
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polyhedra  
Two types of polyhedron

**polyhistor** (pōl'ē-his'tōr) *n.* [ < Gk. polihistor, very learned; polus, much + hístōr, learned.] A polymath. —**polyhistoric** (pōl'ē-his'tōr-ik, -hōr-ik) *adj.*

**polyhydric** (pōl'ē-hi-drik) *adj.* Chem. Having at least two hydroxyl groups.

**polyhymnia** (pōl'ē-hi-mē-ni-ā) *n.* var. of POLYHIMNIA.

**polyhymnia** (pōl'ē-hi-mē-ni-ā) *n.* [Lat. < Gk. Polymnia < polus, many + himnos, hymn.] Gk. Myth. The Muse of sacred song, music, and dance.

**polyimide** (pōl'ē-im-id) *n.* A synthetic polymeric resin of a class resistant to high temperatures, wear, and corrosion, used mainly as a film or coating on a substrate substance.

**polymastic** (pōl'ē-mas'tik) *adj.* [Alteration of F. polymastique; POLY- + Gk. mastix, whip + -ASTIC] Having a cordlike arrangement of filaments.

**polymath** (pōl'ē-māth) *n.* [Gk. polimathis; polus, much + manthanein, to learn.] One of great or varied learning. —**polymathic**, **polymathic** *adj.* —**polymathically** (pōl'ē-māth-ē-ē-ē) *adv.*

**polymer** (pōl'ē-mār) *n.* [Back-formation < POLYMERIC] Any of numerous natural and synthetic compounds of high molecular weight composed of up to millions of repeated linked units, each relatively inert and inactive molecule.

**polymerase** (pōl'ē-mō-rās, -rās) *n.* Any of various enzymes that aid in the linkage of nucleotides in the formation of DNA or RNA with an existing strand of DNA or RNA acting as a template.

**polymeric** (pōl'ē-mēr-ik) *adj.* [Gk. polymēros, having many parts; polus, many + mēros, part.] Of, relating to, or composed of a polymer. —**polymerically** *adv.* —**polymerism** (pōl'ē-mēr-iz-əm, pōl'ē-mēr-ē-ē) *n.*

**polymerization** (pōl'ē-mēr-iz-ā'shōn, pōl'ē-mēr-ē-ē) *n.* 1. The uniting of two or more monomers to form a polymer. 2. A chemical process that brings about polymerization.

**polymerize** (pōl'ē-mēr-iz, pōl'ē-mēr-ē-ē) *vi.* & *vt.* To undergo or subject to polymerization.

**polymericous** (pōl'ē-mēr-ē-ōs) *adj.* Made up of numerous parts.

**polymorph** (pōl'ē-mōr-f) *n.* var. of POLYMORPH.

**polymorph** (pōl'ē-mōr-f) *n.* 1. Biol. An organism marked by polymorphism. 2. Chem. A specific crystalline form of a compound that is capable of crystallizing in different forms.

**polymorphism** (pōl'ē-mōr-f'iz-əm) *n.* 1. Biol. The occurrence of different forms, stages, or color types in individual organisms of the same species. 2. Chem. Crystallization of a compound in at least two distinct forms. —**polymorphic**, **polymorphous** *adj.*

**polymorphonuclear** (pōl'ē-mōr-f'ō-nū-klē-ōr, -mōr-f'ō-nū-klē-ōr) *adj.* Having a lobed nucleus. —Used of leukocytes.

**polymyxin** (pōl'ē-mik-sin) *n.* [ < NLat. polymyxia, specific epithet of Bacillus polymyxa; POLY- + Gk. myxa, slime.] Any of various chiefly toxic antibiotics derived from the soil bacterium Bacillus polymyxa and active against Gram-negative bacteria.

**Polynesian** (pōl'i-nē-zhān, -zhān) *adj.* Of or relating to Polynesians or its inhabitants, culture, or languages. —*n.* 1. A native or resident

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